

ITEM # 0952051A – CONTROL AND REMOVAL OF INVASIVE VEGETATION

Description: This work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary for the identification, eradication, removal, and disposal of unwanted vegetation in locations either indicated on the plan sheets or as directed by an Environmental Scientist from the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Office of Environmental Planning (OEP). While any and all invasive species, including those listed on the website for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group's (CIPWG) Invasive Plants Council (<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/IPC.html>), may be subject to eradication at the direction of the Environmental Scientist, the following species must always be eradicated: tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Russian and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* and *E. umbellata*), smooth buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), winged euonymus (*Euonymus alata*), shrub honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tartarica*, *L. X bella*, *L. xylosteum*), privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*, *L. ovalifolium*, *L. sinense*, *L. vulgare*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). If project-specific invasive species additional to those listed above need to be removed, the Environmental Scientist will give appropriate direction.

All vegetation designated for removal shall be eradicated in its entirety in accordance with the methods submitted by the Contractor and approved by the Environmental Scientist. Some work will be completed within areas where desirable species are present and will remain. The Contractor will be responsible for protection of desirable species that are to remain.

Materials: Mechanical removal shall consist of either manual labor, utilizing a weed wrench or other approved machine, or some other approved method that will enable removal of all root pieces and other parts of the target species while minimizing soil disturbance and avoiding any spread of invasive plant material. Where large infestations of invasive/unwanted vegetation are present and identified on the plans, removal via over-excavation of such vegetation and the underlying soils may be required

All herbicides shall be registered for the species being treated and shall be formulated as applicable for target-species foliar treatment, cut surface, or injection applications. Where work in or immediately adjacent to wetlands is necessary, the product label(s) for any chemical/adjuvant formulation applied must indicate that the formulation is approved for aquatic environments.

Construction Methods: The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for identifying all invasive species present within the invasive removal areas called out in the contract documents prior to the Pre-Construction Meeting. The Contractor shall submit the required invasive removal plan at the Pre-Construction Meeting for the review and approval of the Environmental Scientist. This plan shall include a list of all invasive species present on site, along with a schedule of operations and an outline of construction methodologies for the required control and removal of invasive vegetation specific to each species listed.

While the Environmental Scientist will review the Contractor's delineation and removal plan, the Contractor must be competent to identify invasive vegetation at all times of the year and to prepare

a plan for its eradication without assistance.

During the Pre-Construction Meeting, a field review shall be scheduled so that the Contractor and the Environmental Scientist can review the areas of invasive species removal, the specific species required to be removed, and the Contractor's submitted invasive species control plan. At this time, the Environmental Scientist may designate areas for removal that are additional to those shown on the plans. If changes are required to the originally submitted plan, these changes must be submitted to the Environmental Scientist at least 10 days prior to beginning work.

Upon receiving a Notice to Proceed, the Contractor will delineate all areas designated for invasive species removal. The Contractor will be responsible for maintaining this delineation throughout the life of the contract.

The Contractor will not be allowed to begin construction activities in the designated removal areas until all schedules, outlines, and methodologies are approved in writing by the Environmental Scientist. This schedule must take into consideration the time period required between herbicide application and the physical removal of the target species wherever such removal is to occur. No removal work can occur for a minimum of two weeks after herbicide application. In all cases, the submitted schedule shall consider mechanical methods for removal before proposing herbicide application.

The schedule and outline shall include:

- 1) The type(s) of invasive species identified in the designated area(s);
- 2) Species specific treatment methods describing a full course of treatment for each species to achieve eradication. These methods must show:
 - a. Removal methods planned (e.g. pulling, cutting, spraying, etc);
 - b. Types and concentrations of any herbicides to be used, including any adjuvants; and
 - c. Schedules showing dates and types of initial, intermediate and final treatments;
- 3) Any construction activities planned in designated removal area(s) during the eradication period;
- 4) Disposal methods, including:
 - a. Onsite methods and locations; and
 - b. Requests for off-site disposal locations;
- 5) Proof of DEEP licensure for herbicide application;
- 6) A description of safety equipment required; and
- 7) Procedures for handling chemical spills.

The Contractor shall also:

- a. Maintain the labels for herbicides being used in his/her possession;
- b. Provide OEP with a 10 day work notice prior to proceeding so that the Environmental Scientist can schedule to be present when appropriate;
- c. Conduct all herbicide formulations and applications, including the addition of appropriate surfactants and other adjuvants, in strict conformance with the manufacturer's recommendation and per requirements of regulatory agencies; and
- d. Maintain a written record of herbicide application, including the formulation, concentration, area treated, and date for each application, to be provided by the commercial applicator and submitted to the Environmental Scientist following each treatment.

A "treatment period" for each designated area will be derived from the schedule submitted by the Contractor and determined by the following:

- 1) The first treatment date of the earliest treatable vegetation; and
- 2) The last treatment date of the latest treatable vegetation

It is anticipated that many species will require more than one season to obtain complete eradication. The treatment period must take into consideration those species that will require follow up treatments and more than one season for complete eradication. Upon completion of the treatment period, the Contractor shall notify the Environmental Scientist in writing of the status of eradication. If the eradication has not been successful, the Contractor shall also submit additional treatment plans. If the Contractor believes that eradication has been achieved, the Contractor shall request a site inspection by the Environmental Scientist for concurrence. If the Environmental Scientist concurs that eradication has been achieved, the area will be subject to a one (1) year warranty starting on the first day following the inspection by the Environmental Scientist. During this period the Contractor will be responsible for any further occurrences of the invasive species inside the delineated area.

The Contractor will be responsible for removal and eradication of all plant material deemed as invasive or unwanted within the delineated area(s) for the duration of the project or until relieved of responsibility of the removal item, and the delineation shall remain in place until this time.

Flush cut brush and trees shall not be more than 2 inches (50mm) above the ground line. Flush cutting shall be performed in a controlled manner that will prevent the spread of parts or seeds of invasive species. Brush hogging or any other clearing method that may promote the spread of invasive plant material is also not permissible.

Broadcast or uncontrolled spray application will not be permitted, and care must be taken to avoid contacting non-target species and/or deterring the recolonization of native species following application.

Remove all twining vines in treetops to the greatest extent possible without damaging the branches of the supporting desired vegetation. Cut and remove vines overtopping tree canopies. Climbing spikes will not be permitted for aerial work.

Prune out any branches on non-treatment plants that are damaged during removal of vegetation. All corrective pruning shall conform to the National Arborists Association Pruning Standards.

The site must be monitored by the Contractor and any new or regrowth treated prior to beginning installation of any landscape plantings.

Processing and disposal of unwanted vegetation shall be done in a controlled manner so as not to spread invasive seed or plant parts within the surrounding areas. All cut invasive vegetation shall be separated from clearing and grubbing operations and all other cleared material. Invasive plant materials may be buried on site within the Department ROW provided that they are under a minimum of 10 feet (3.0 m) of cover on all sides for Japanese knotweed and phragmites and 3 feet (1 m) of cover on all sides for all other species and/or removed from the site and disposed of at the approved location(s) identified in the Contractor's submitted schedule and outline of construction methodologies.

No equipment or vehicles other than that required to complete the work will be permitted in the areas designated for invasive vegetation removal. Any equipment used to process invasive materials, such as chippers and transport vehicles, must be cleaned prior to further use. Processing equipment must also be cleaned prior to further transport.

Wherever removal operations result in exposed soils, disturbed areas must be vegetatively stabilized with the appropriate seed mix and protected with hay, cellulosic fiber mulch, or erosion control matting. The application rate for hay mulch and fiber mulch shall be 3500 lbs per acre (3920 kg/hectare).

Method of Measurement: The control and removal of invasive vegetation will be measured by the number of square yards (square meters) of invasive and unwanted vegetation identified and eradicated as required above, including any required re-treatment of any regrowth or new growth. The area for removal will be delineated prior to treatment and measured for payment. After a review of the delineated areas, the Environmental Scientist may designate additional areas for removal that are not shown on the plans. These additional areas will be delineated, measured for payment, and included as part of the contract work.

Where selective removal is required, the drip line of the invasive vegetation will be measured for payment and shall include larger trees.

Basis of Payment: This work will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard (square meter) for "Control and Removal of Invasive Vegetation". This payment shall include all labor, materials, tools, and equipment necessary for delineation of the invasive area(s); maintenance of the delineation throughout the project; species identification; and cutting, treating, re-treating, removal, and on or off-site disposal of designated invasive plant material. Off-site disposal of residue shall include the loading, transport, dumping, and fees associated with legal off-site disposal.

- Upon approval of the required schedules, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 10% of all areas delineated.
- Upon initial treatment as it is described in the schedule of operations, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 30% of all areas receiving initial treatment.
- Upon successful completion of the treatment period as determined during the site review by the Environmental Scientist, the Contractor will receive a payment equal to 30% of all areas receiving final treatment.
- Upon successful completion of the 1 year warranty period covering all treated areas on the project, the contractor will receive a payment equal to 30% of the areas treated.

Where excavation is required for removal, this work shall be covered under the contract Item "Earth Excavation". All other vegetation removed shall be included in the Item "Clearing and Grubbing" in accordance with Section 2.01.

Vegetative stabilization of disturbed areas shall be paid for under the respective contract Items: "Turf Establishment", "Wetland Grass Establishment", and/or "Conservation Seeding for Slopes".

Pay Item

Control and Removal of Invasive Vegetation

Pay Unit

S.Y. (S.M.)